

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES[®]

Late Backup

June 24, 2010

Good Afternoon council members. My name is Marc Bell and I'm the director of Social enterprises at Southwest Key located in East Austin.

Everyday we have anywhere from 30-40 people who arrive at our offices seeking work in any of our businesses. Most of these people are anxious to learn a skill in hopes to join our training programs in order to become sustainably employed by us.

As an employer we face tremendous challenges in the way of recruiting, retaining, and developing human capital in East Austin. Disparities in education attainment, employment and income exist between various segments of our community's population in East Austin.

To remain competitive in today's green job marketplace future it is imperative to me that we invest in economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills experiences critical for today's market.

Austin is positioning itself to be a leader in green job creations and is doing an impressive job in their efforts to attract green business leaders such as Samsung, Gemini solar development and Active power.

When the city of Austin put out the RFP to build the 30 megawatt solar farm in which Gemini solar was awarded the contract who did they have in mind to do the installation work and farm work? This type of work can not be outsourced and demands local trained laborers to facilitate this project.

Although companies are coming into Central Texas the workforce is not trained to perform these green jobs being created. Do we wait for these companies to open their doors and then look for skilled workers or be pro active and prepare them now in order for them to hit the ground running.

Through our existing Social Enterprises we are successful in creating green jobs and are working very closely with Austin Energy's weatherization program to create green jobs and make homes efficient and lowering energy consumption. By doing so we are empowering workers to become skilled worker who have the necessary training and capability to be employed by us or other green business leaders.,

We are training individuals in the field of Green Energy and need support in our training efforts either in our classrooms or on the job experience. This demand is needed to fill the future demands.

Our new Social enterprise facility will house many of the key training services that create jobs opportunities. We will continue

to provide support for some of the lowest income individuals and will serve to revitalize a community suffering economic distress.

I ask you to support our daily efforts and set priority for the funding of \$180,00 to support economic development opportunities in East Austin in order for us to work together to fill today's and the futures job demands....The dire need is ever so present and can only be addressed by comprehensive efforts such as ours at SWKEY.

Our hopes are for Everyone to become a "Changemaker": while the most important thing is to spread the practices of creating change as widely in society as possible.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration in furthering the SWKEYS programs and goodness!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Bell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Marc Bell
Director of Social Enterprises
512.568.4744



TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

JOSEPH P. GIESELMAN, EXECUTIVE MANAGER

411 West 13th Street
Executive Office Building
PO Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-9383
FAX (512) 854-9436

June 17, 2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

Travis County strongly supports economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills and experiences critical for today's job market. Southwest Key's Social Enterprise Complex will house key services that create job opportunities for those individuals that need a hand up in lieu of hand out. This type of effort is what it takes to revitalize a community suffering economic distress. As the data shows, communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace badly need investment in economic development activities.

I am writing to express my support for the Southwest Key Programs' Social Enterprise initiative and to ask you to please make it a priority for funding to support economic development opportunities in communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace. The need is urgent and can only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive approach such as this. Please join me in committing to the future of East Austin.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kurt Nielsen,
District Manager
Travis County Parks

Workforce Solutions

Capital Area Workforce Board

June 14, 2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

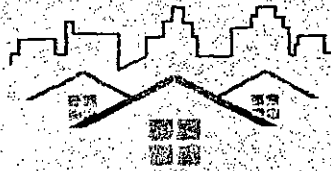
The mission of Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board is to lead the region's workforce system in the development of a world-class workforce. Disparities in educational attainment, employment and income exist between various segments of our community's population. To remain competitive in today's global economy, it is imperative to me that we invest in economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills and experiences critical for today's job market. Southwest Key's Social Enterprise Complex will house key services that create job opportunities and supports for some of our lowest income individuals, and it will serve to revitalize a community suffering economic distress. As the data shows, communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace badly need investment in economic development activities.

I am writing to express support for the Southwest Key Programs' Social Enterprise initiative and to ask you to please set priority for funding to support economic development opportunities in communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace. The need is urgent and can only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive approach such as this. I hope you will give this initiative your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Alan D. Miller
Executive Director



GoGreenSquads

6/11/10

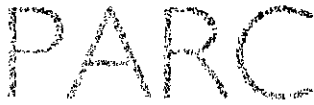
Dear Community Development Commission Members,

As a member of the Austin community, it is imperative to me that we invest in economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills and experiences critical for today's job market. Southwest Key's Social Enterprise Complex will house key services that create job opportunities and supports for some of our lowest income individuals, and it will serve to revitalize a community suffering economic distress. As the data shows, communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace badly need investment in economic development activities.

I am writing to express my support for the Southwest Key Programs' Social Enterprise initiative and to ask you to please set priority for funding to support economic development opportunities in communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace. The need is urgent and can only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive approach such as this. Please join me in committing to the future of East Austin.

Sincerely,

Susan Meredith
CEO
512-554-6218



Peter A. Ravella Consulting, L.L.C.

4107 Wildwood Road ♦ Austin, Texas 78722 ♦ Telephone: 512-784-3565 ♦

June 13, 2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

As a member of the Austin community, it is imperative to me that we invest in economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills and experiences critical for today's job market. Southwest Key's Social Enterprise Complex will house key services that create job opportunities and supports for some of our lowest income individuals, and it will serve to revitalize a community suffering economic distress. As the data shows, communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace badly need investment in economic development activities.

I am writing to express my support for the Southwest Key Programs' Social Enterprise initiative and to ask you to please set priority for funding to support economic development opportunities in communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace. The need is urgent and can only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive approach such as this. Please join me in committing to the future of East Austin.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Peter A. Ravella

Peter A Ravella, Principle
PARC, LLC



06/11/2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

As a member of the Austin community and employee of a local energy technology company, it is imperative to me that we invest in economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills and experiences critical for today's job market. Southwest Key's Social Enterprise Complex will house key services that create job opportunities and supports for some of our lowest income individuals, and it will serve to revitalize a community suffering economic distress. As the data shows, communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace badly need investment in economic development activities.

I am writing to express my support for the Southwest Key Programs' Social Enterprise initiative and to ask you to please set priority for funding to support economic development opportunities in communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace. The need is urgent and can only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive approach such as this. Please join me in committing to the future of East Austin.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Otto".

Jeff J. Otto
Director, Sales Solutions
Incenergy LLC
Cell: 814.883.3359
Office: 512.327.2020
Email: jeff.otto@incenergy.com
Address: 1135 W 6th St. Suite 140 Austin, TX 78703

EKOKI. LLC
1015 Avondale
Austin, Texas
78704

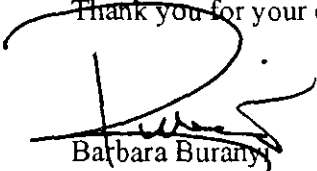
June 14, 2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

As a member of the Austin community, it is imperative to me that we invest in economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills and experiences critical for today's job market. Southwest Key's Social Enterprise Complex will house key services that create job opportunities and supports for some of our lowest income individuals, and it will serve to revitalize a community suffering economic distress. As the data shows, communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace in East Austin badly need investment in economic development activities.

I am writing to express my support for the Southwest Key Programs' Social Enterprise initiative and to ask you to please set priority for funding to support economic development opportunities in communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace. The need is urgent and can only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive approach such as this. Please join me in committing to the future of East Austin by supporting Southwest Key's request for financial support.

Thank you for your consideration,



Barbara Burany

11 June 2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

As a member of the Austin community, it is imperative to me that we invest in economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills and experiences critical for today's job market. Southwest Key's Social Enterprise Complex will house key services that create job opportunities and support for some of our lowest income individuals; and it will serve to revitalize a community suffering economic distress. As the data shows, communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace badly need investment in economic development activities.

I am writing to express my support for the Southwest Key Programs' Social Enterprise initiative and to ask you to please set priority for funding to support economic development opportunities in communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace. The need is urgent and can only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive approach such as this. Please join me in committing to the future of East Austin.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jimmy Lincoln

Robertson Energy Inspections
10215 Missel Thrush Drive
Austin, Texas 78750

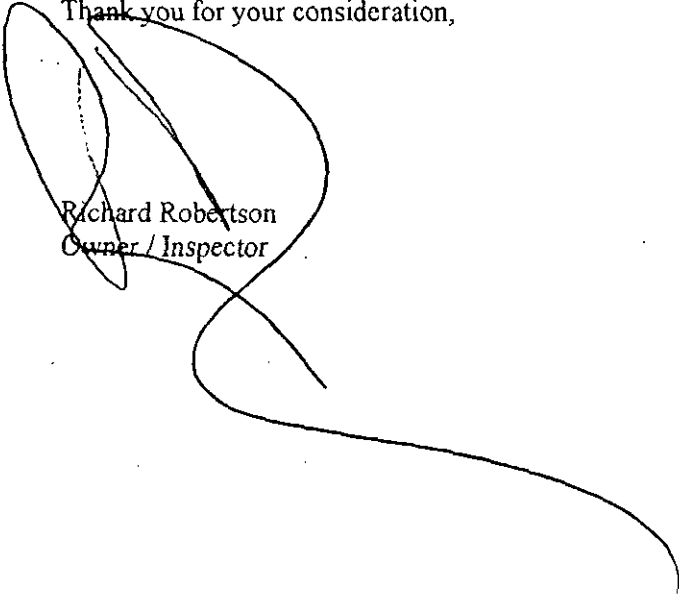
June 14, 2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

As a member of the Austin community, it is imperative to me that we invest in economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills and experiences critical for today's job market. Southwest Key's Social Enterprise Complex will house key services that create job opportunities and supports for some of our lowest income individuals, and it will serve to revitalize a community suffering economic distress. As the data shows, communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace in East Austin badly need investment in economic development activities.

I am writing to express my support for the Southwest Key Programs' Social Enterprise initiative and to ask you to please set priority for funding to support economic development opportunities in communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace. The need is urgent and can only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive approach such as this. Please join me in committing to the future of East Austin by supporting Southwest Key's request for financial support.

Thank you for your consideration,



Richard Robertson
Owner / Inspector

Artes Remodeling & Construction, LLC
917 Busleigh Castle Way
Pflugerville, Texas 78690

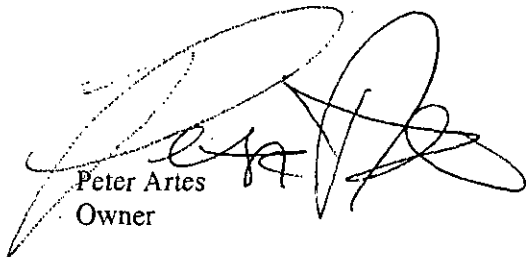
June 14, 2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

As a member of the Austin community, it is imperative to me that we invest in economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills and experiences critical for today's job market. Southwest Key's Social Enterprise Complex will house key services that create job opportunities and supports for some of our lowest income individuals, and it will serve to revitalize a community suffering economic distress. As the data shows, communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace in East Austin badly need investment in economic development activities.

I am writing to express my support for the Southwest Key Programs' Social Enterprise initiative and to ask you to please set priority for funding to support economic development opportunities in communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace. The need is urgent and can only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive approach such as this. Please join me in committing to the future of East Austin by supporting Southwest Key's request for financial support.

Thank you for your consideration,



Peter Artes
Owner

SABAI ENTERTAINMENT
1015 Avondale
Austin Texas
78705

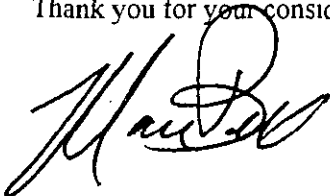
June 14, 2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

As a member of the Austin community, it is imperative to me that we invest in economic development opportunities that positively impact those lacking the 21st Century skills and experiences critical for today's job market. Southwest Key's Social Enterprise Complex will house key services that create job opportunities and supports for some of our lowest income individuals, and it will serve to revitalize a community suffering economic distress. As the data shows, communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace in East Austin badly need investment in economic development activities.

I am writing to express my support for the Southwest Key Programs' Social Enterprise initiative and to ask you to please set priority for funding to support economic development opportunities in communities such as Govalle/Johnston Terrace. *The need is urgent and can only be adequately addressed by a comprehensive approach such as this.* Please join me in committing to the future of East Austin by supporting Southwest Key's request for financial support.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Bell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Marc Bell
Owner

June 14, 2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

My name is Oralia Castro; I am a custodian in Southwest Key's maintenance company, which is part of their job coaching and social enterprise program. I've been working here two years and four months. Southwest Key has brought a lot of good things to East Austin, things that we didn't have like free after school programs for our kids, free community space like their computer labs and most important a job to be able to support my family with. They have done a lot of things that a lot of other people or companies would not bother to offer me or my community. We are all very thankful for that. It is because of this that I am writing to urge you to fund job coaching and social enterprise programs like Southwest Key.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oralia Castro', written over a horizontal line.

Oralia Castro

6-14-10

Dear Community Development Commission Members

My name is David Masias I was hired by Southwest Key through their social enterprise and job coaching initiative as a landscaper for their maintenance company. Before Southwest Key came around I was a manager for a fast food restaurant. I'm Glad I had the opportunity to work for Southwest Key, this is the only company I know that will hire people without experience and with a criminal background.

Southwest Key has brought a lot of positive things to East Austin, things we didn't have before. like free after school programs, free community space like computer lab and most important jobs to be able to support our families. It is because of this that I'm writing to urge you to fund job coaching and social enterprise programs like Southwest Key.

Thank You

David Masias

6-14-10

Dear Community Development Commission Members,
My name is Artemio Gueccero. I was hired by Southwest Key through their social enterprise and Job Coaching initiative as a landscaper. I had very little experience in this area but they offered me a job.

Now I'm a crew leader and I love working at Southwest Key because I see how they help the community by providing jobs and after school programs, free community space like computer labs. They have done a lot of things that a lot of other people or companies would not bother with and my community is very thankful for that. It is because of this that I am writing to urge you to fund job coaching and social enterprise programs like Southwest Key.

Artemio Gueccero

6/14/10

Ray Armonta. I'm Very glad to work with Southwest Key. Because there no other co. that will give any Body a job. Thanks for swk. Before I had a Very Bad time geting a job. But to day I'm Bless Thanks to god & swk. for Keeping me ~~be~~ working. I got to pay Bills & also I got to eat. & I'm willing to grow with swk thanks you so much & the some time staying out of trouble. this is my first Job I've ever had. closing with all my Respecting. R.A.

Ray Armonta

6-14-10

I Dennis Govey I write I am today
because of Southwest Key since
being employed by them I have become
a better man and have been able to
provide for my family my leadership
and yale skills have improved tremen-
dously I would like to thank you all
involved in my employment and
Southwest Key

Sincerely
Dennis Govey

6-14-10

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

My Name is Eric Davis I was hired by Southwest Key through their social enterprise and job coaching initiative as a roofer for the maintenance company. Before Southwest Key came around I didn't have a job ~~side from~~ for four months; when they came to East Austin however they gave me a job. If it were not for them I would still be struggling today. But thanks to their job coaching and development program I am in a better place and can provide for my family.

Thank you

Eric Davis

June 14, 2010

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

My name is Francisco Garza and I was hired by Southwest Key through their social enterprise and job coaching initiative as a residential roofer. I had little experience but they still offered me a job. Without them I would still be unemployed.

It is for this reason that I am writing to urge you to support job coaching programs like Southwest Key and the funds they've requested. They have already brought a lot of positive things to East Austin and there are many other people and families that need the services here. I am asking that you please approve Southwest Key's request.

Thank You,

Francisco

6/14/10

Dear Community Development Commission Members,

My name is Jared Newton, I was hired by South West Key through their Social enterprise and Job Coaching initiative as a Residential Roofer for their maintenance company. Before Southwest Key came around, I didn't have a job for 6 months, when they came to East Austin however, they gave me a job. If it were not for them I still would not have a job today, but thanks to them I have a job and can now start to save money and get my life back on track.

It is this reason I am writing to urge you to support job coaching programs like Southwest Key and the funds they've requested. They have already brought a lot of positive things to East Austin and there are many other people and families that need the services here. I am asking that you please approve Southwest Key's request.

Thank You,

Jared Newton

Dear Community Development Commission members
My name is Rene Noel Martinez I was laid off by applied
and I have put lots of application in a lot of companies
But no would hire me and I applied in South West Keys
and they gave me a job!! I am thank full to
S.W. Key For give me a chance and a job!

Thks S.W. Key
From Rene Noel Martinez

Dear Community Development Commission
Members,

My name is Jerry Lang, I was hired by Southwest Key through their social enterprise & job coaching initiative as a roofer for their maintenance company. Before Southwest Key came around, I didn't have a job for one week when I moved too Austin, however, they gave me a job. If not for them I would still be struggling today. Thanks to their job coaching and development program, I am in a better place & can provide for my family.

It is for this reason that I am writing to urge you to support job coaching programs like Southwest Key and the funds they've requested.

Thank you

Jerry Lang

Concern Mothers for Justice
P. O. Box 143206
Austin, Texas 78714-3206
Tele#: 512-299-7340 - Cell

June 24, 2010

Re: Item #152: Receive 14.1 million through four U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Programs

To City Council Members:

When the City of Austin receive this money specified for different areas of Austin, in building homes, apartments, business, department stores, grocery chains, health care facility, and day care providers, I ask Council Members to take into consideration the nationality and make-up of the residents who reside in East Austin for a long time, predominately Black and Hispanic Communities.

Black and Hispanic Communities of East Austin, ask when the Austin Revitalization Authority of Central East Austin and City of Austin Urban Renewal Program disburse monies from the Grants, that their Communities be represented fairly. East Austin is the Heart of Austin, a Historical Landmark of Austin, the Black and Hispanic Communities and its Cultures with their Live Styles, are the Catalysts for Austin.

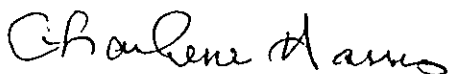
The Black and Hispanic Communities would ask Council Members to take into consideration:

- 1) The Average Economic/Financial/ Wage Structure that already existed within the Community
- 2) The Fixed Income of the Elderly
- 3) The Fixed Income of those on Housing Assistance, Welfare and Health Programs
- 4) Affordable and Spacious Home and Apartment dwellings
- 5) Grant Monies received for Small Black and Hispanic Business are able to keep their doors Open and Rebuild?
It can be considered as a Head Start Program Grant Money received, where they need not pay back, giving them the advantage of Surviving as the Large Companies and Business that invaded East Austin.
- 6) Several Affordable Children Day and Night Care Providers, because many of Our Parents in East Austin MUST work at Night.
- 7)

This is only a few suggestions that East Austin ask Council to take into consideration when you continue to flood our Community with the High Rise Cost in Homes, Apartment Dwelling, Business, Property Tax Increase, when those who are on Fixed Income, in Wages, Government Checks and Welfare cannot afford the EXPENSE.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Charlene Harris
For Concern Mothers for Justice



AUSTIN CHDO ROUNDTABLE

To: Mayor Lee Leffingwell, City Council Members, Betsy Spencer, Interim Director of NHCDO, and City Manager Marc Ott:

On behalf of the membership of the Austin CHDO Roundtable, we would like to express our appreciation for the City of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office in its creation of a draft Action Plan for 2010-2011, and we commend the department and its staff on its past success as an active and supportive partner in funding the creation of affordable housing throughout Austin.

To put the following remarks in context, this has been a painful year for non-profit housing developers. The moratorium on applications and funding is entering its eighth month. City Council's laudable support of permanent supportive housing, coinciding with the legitimate attempt of NHCD to size up its obligations and resources, has had the unintended consequence of creating confusion and a protracted moratorium on applications for and allocation of funds. This state of confusion led some CHDOs to submit applications after March 25, 2010 that have not been processed, while other CHDOs were told not to submit applications at all. Projects that are viable and shovel-ready, that would provide some of the permanent supportive housing we all desire, have been lost and others are in danger of losing substantial leveraging and dying. Meanwhile, better opportunities in the real estate market than we have seen in years, and may not be seen again for years to come, are passing us by. We have lost valuable time and, if City Council and staff do not act quickly, more opportunities will be lost. This means desperately needed affordable housing, of all types and for people of all income levels that could be developed, may never be developed.

Therefore, after reviewing and discussing the draft Action Plan and the situation in the current fiscal year, the Austin CHDO Roundtable requests that the following recommendations and revisions be accepted and, where applicable, incorporated into the Action Plan.

To address the current situation, we recommend that NHCD immediately:

- 1. Process applications *received prior to the December 2009 "pause"* (i.e. Habitat's) and place them on AHFC's agenda at the soonest opportunity.**
- 2. Prioritize funding from this fiscal year (FY 2009-2010) for three projects identified in plan for FY 2010-2011 (Green Doors, the Ivy, and Mary Lee).**
- 3. End the pause/moratorium by issuing a NOFA, if necessary, and begin taking and reviewing applications on a first-come-first-serve basis immediately so that eligible projects will be ready for AHFC action as soon as possible, even if it is expected that many projects will not be funded.**
- 4. Identify the remaining 2009-2010 funds as soon as possible and allocate those towards eligible projects prior to the start of the 2010-2011 fiscal year if possible.**

For the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year:

- 5. Review projects and establish funding amounts based on realistic project costs for the 2010-2011 fiscal year rather than recommending amounts needed for the entire project. (Anderson CDC 24-Units; Juniper Olive Phase III; 11th and 12th Street; Frontier @ Montana)**

6. For AHFC/Anderson CDC and other projects managed primarily by "the City", prioritize using funds other than G.O. Bonds and Housing Trust Funds so that these more flexible funds remain available for other projects.
7. Treat all projects, including AHFC projects, equally in terms of application submittal, review for completeness, scoring and scheduling for AHFC action.
8. Continue to evaluate and prioritize projects with emphasis placed on "shovel-readiness."
9. Establish the expectation that affordable housing will be on the 2012 bond referendum. Make all, or almost all, of the remaining G. O. Bonds available during the 2010-2011 fiscal year and fund qualifying projects so that little if any bond funds remain at the end of 2011.

We would also like to reiterate positions the CHDO Roundtable has previously expressed:

- **Ensure that there is a transparent, fair and open process for awarding funds, that is both competitive and rolling (open).**
- **Maintain the goal of supporting affordable housing for households with a DIVERSITY of income levels.**
- **Support affordable housing opportunities geographically dispersed across the city.**
- **Place high value on investing public funds in projects that provide long term affordability**
- **Build in flexibility so that funds targeted for one use may be shifted to other uses after a specified time period if they are not attracting enough eligible projects.**

Finally, we cannot express strongly enough the urgency that NHCD begin processing existing applications, accept new applications, and return to its previous funding process, or a similar one, as soon as possible. That said, we would like to acknowledge the genuine concern that NHCD staff has shown for the impact this situation is having on affordable housing developers and their genuine interest in finding solutions that benefit the entire community. We hope that council will take our recommendations to heart and support NHCD staff in resolving these issues with expediency.

Respectfully,

Mark C. Rogers, Co-Chair Isabelle Headrick, Co-Chair

Green Doors
AHA!
ACDDC
Easter Seals Central Texas
Blackland CDC
Guadalupe NDC
Chestnut CDC
Lifeworks
Habitat for Humanity

ACTION PLAN AMENDMENTS

My name is Stuart Hersh, and like most people in Austin, I rent.

The Action Plan draft is an attempt to strike a balance between contractual obligations that the City of Austin has with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the housing priorities of this community established by the City Council and documented in numerous reports the City has funded.

I recommend amendments to the draft Action Plan that could result in both greater availability of federal and local funds to promote Austin's housing affordability goals and contractual compliance with federal and local requirements. Here are my suggestions:

1. If funding sources become available in 2009-2010, The Willows, Sweeney Circle, and The Ivy will become eligible for funding in 2009-2010.
2. HOME, CHDO, GO Bond, and Housing Trust Funds available in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 be limited to due diligence, preparation of architectural and engineering plans for bid purposes, code compliance, accessibility/vistability compliance and Green Building compliance for the following federally funded projects appearing on the draft Action Plan list: Anderson CDC – 1113 Myrtle Street, Anderson CDC – 24 units, Juniper Olive Phase III, and 11th and 12th Street.
3. HOME, CDBG, GO Bond, and Housing Trust Funds not required for activities described in #1 above are available for the following projects in 2010 - 2011: Permanent Supportive Housing, Rental Housing and Development Assistance, Homeownership and GO Repair!
4. Repaid S.M.A.R.T. Housing fee waivers are made available for GO Repair! in the 2010-2011 budget.
5. All permanent supportive rental housing serving households at or below 30% Median Family Income completed after 3/25/10 be counted toward the 350 unit/30% MFI goal established by the City Council.

With these amendments to the draft Action Plan, the City of Austin will position itself to maximize opportunities for the poorest renters among us as well as working families aspiring to or seeking to retain homeownership.

Shersh@austin.rr.com
512-587-5093 (cell)



Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable

*Building Successful Strategies for
Offender Re-Entry in Austin/Travis County, Texas*

Draft of Public Hearing Comments

PLANNING COUNCIL

Thomas Cruz

Interim Council Chairperson
Office of the Attorney General

Michael Balliro

University of Texas,
School of Social Work

Bill Brice

Council Chairperson, 2007
Downtown Austin Alliance

Sandra Eames, Ed.D.

Evaluator/Consultant

Darla Gay

Travis County,
Office of the District Attorney

Roger Jefferies

Travis County,
Justice & Public Safety

Karen Maxwell

Travis County, Sheriff's Office

Mike McDonald

Austin Assistant City Manager

Abraham Minjarez

Austin/Travis County MHMR

Marcus Ramirez

TDCJ Parole Division

Frank Ringer

Central East Austin
Weed and Seed Project

A/TCRRT Staff

Jeri Houchins

Administrative Director
jeri.jeanw@gmail.com
(512) 331-2023

Emily Rogers

Planning Coordinator
(512) 934-3038

www.atc-reentryroundtable.com

- First, the Reentry Roundtable thanks the city staff of NHCD and HHS who thoughtfully prepared this Draft 2010-2011 Action Plan. They had a very tough job to do and the draft plan demonstrates a real desire to meet multiple expectations and priorities.
- The US Interagency Council on Homelessness just released the first-ever comprehensive federal plan with goals to combat homelessness in America. The first goal is to ***finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years***. And the first key strategy identified to help do this is to **provide permanent supportive housing**. Specifically, the report says this:

"We know what works. The research is clear that permanent supportive housing using a Housing First approach is the primary solution."
- The Reentry Roundtable pledges to remain an active community partner to help reach the City's short-term goal of 350 units of permanent supportive housing by 2014 as recommended by the research findings of the Corporation for Supportive Housing. We remind the Council that of the 350 units, 225 were recommended to serve a *chronically homeless/re-entry population, clearly signaling the recognition of the physical and fiscal impact this population is having in our community and on our systems.*
- Of the \$13 million in GO Bonds, we appreciate that this Action Plan includes \$2 million for proposed psh projects as a short-term strategy for bringing psh units on-line this year. Unfortunately, very little of the GO Bond allocations will serve the chronically homeless population particular those who are high utilizers of other systems such as criminal justice, emergency health and mental health care, and the shelter system. We strongly encourage NHCD and the City Council to reconsider their projected distribution of these funds and focus on **screening folks into psh housing, not out.**
- We specifically strongly encourage the City Council assist us in developing a strong partnership with the local housing authorities to help create a policy shift that will relax their selection criteria and develop project-based voucher programs targeting this special needs population which will help us create a stream of operating subsidies to fund some of these 350 psh units.
- The US HHS Secretary says this: ***"Homelessness cannot be solved by a single agency or organization, by a single level of government, or by a single sector. Everyone should be reminded of the intricacies of homelessness as a policy area, and remember that preventing and ending homelessness will take real coordination, collaboration, and a constant exchange of ideas."***
- The Reentry Roundtable looks forward to participating in a great exchange of ideas and a real collaboration that will help us find ways to maximize our resources, talents and passions to meet the goals we share along the housing continuum for our most vulnerable populations.



Southwest Key's Economic Impact on Austin

- ☐ Southwest Key invested \$8 million on building projects in East Austin.
- ☐ Southwest Key is the 5th largest non-profit in Central Texas.
- ☐ The agency has hired 73 new employees since 2007.
- ☐ Southwest Key currently employs 145 people in Austin.
- ☐ New money brought to Austin to construct a \$3.5 million Southwest Key Social Enterprise complex. Project will create 60 new constructions jobs in East Austin.
- ☐ Southwest Key's goal is to create 100 new jobs for East Austin by December 2011.
- ☐ Hundreds of additional jobs will be created in the coming years.



Southwest Key is Requesting
\$180,000 through
 CDBG funding for:

- ▷ Job Coaching
- ▷ Job Training
- ▷ Job Creation
- ▷ Housing Counseling



HOUSING ISSUES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

ADAPT's Comments for the Hearing on the Annual Plan for
Affordable Housing in the City of Austin
June 24, 2010

LOW INCOME AFFORDABLE HOUSING & RENTAL SUBSIDIES

Many people with disabilities have extremely limited incomes. A person who receives SSI income from Social Security is getting \$674 per month or \$8,088 per year. The waiting list for Section 8 is currently 4 to 5 years long and is closed – so no one can get on it until it is opened up again. Public housing is also very limited compared to the need, and the waiting list is over a year. Personal attendants (who help people with disabilities and seniors with personal care and home health care) make about \$13,000 per year if they are lucky. Housing needs to be targeted to rents people can afford.

Section 8 and similar rental subsidies are critical for people to keep a roof over their heads. Communities should strategize ways to maximize rental subsidies for low income people with disabilities, as well as ways to target their housing funds for those most in need.

ADAPT believes funds should be concentrated on projects that provide housing units that serve people at or below 30% MFI

ENFORCEMENT

The federal Fair Housing Amendments Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act all address requirements to make housing and related services accessible for people with disabilities. These laws are often times not followed; if there is no enforcement, compliance is unlikely to occur. Enforcement of these laws should be a priority. Existing and future housing projects should be surveyed to ensure compliance.

SEPARATING SERVICES AND HOUSING

While there is a need for increased housing and support services for people with disabilities, these two should be separated. We do not support housing which requires tenants to receive support services. All affordable housing that gets funding from the City of Austin should offer a lease and key to the tenant. Any support services that are offered by projects funded by the City of Austin should be optional to the tenant.

HOUSING ISSUES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

BARRIER REMOVAL

There is an incredible need for assistance to people with disabilities who need access in their own homes. Inaccessible housing is substandard for people who need access. If you are a prisoner in your own home because you cannot get in or out independently due to lack of a ramp, railing, accessible fire alarm or other access accommodations, your housing is substandard. ADAPT is concerned about the fact that ABR funds are focused mostly towards homeownership. The Draft Plan only has \$250,000 dedicated to rental housing. That is a problem because there are so many people with disabilities who are very low income and will not be able to own a home. Those people will still need help getting access to the apartment units they live in.